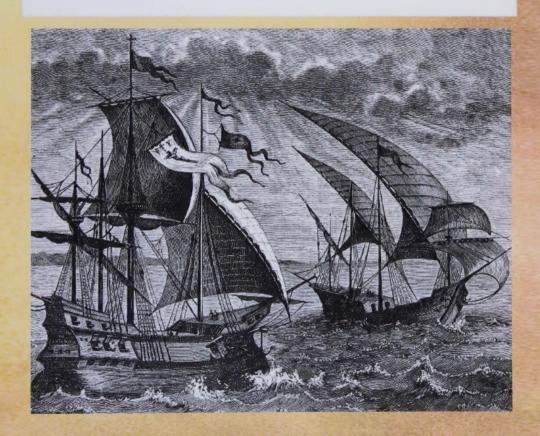


Social Sciences

The truth of the matter, in a letter to a member of Parliament.



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The truth of the matter, in a letter to a member of Parliament. Multiple Contributors, See Notes ESTCID: N014191 Reproduction from Harvard University Houghton Library In support of monarchy in general and William III in particular. With a half-title. London: printed in the year, 1702. [4],27,[1]p.; 4°



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Social Science

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Law and Reference

This collection reveals the history of English common law and Empire law in a vastly changing world of British expansion. Dominating the legal field is the *Commentaries of the Law of England* by Sir William Blackstone, which first appeared in 1765. Reference works such as almanacs and catalogues continue to educate us by revealing the day-to-day workings of society.

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The eighteenth-century fascination with Greek and Roman antiquity followed the systematic excavation of the ruins at Pompeii and Herculaneum in southern Italy; and after 1750 a neoclassical style dominated all artistic fields. The titles here trace developments in mostly English-language works on painting, sculpture, architecture, music, theater, and other disciplines. Instructional works on musical instruments, catalogs of art objects, comic operas, and more are also included.



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THE TRUTH OFTHE MATTER.

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LETTER

TOA

Member of Parliament.



LONDON: Printed in the Year 1702.

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TOA

Member of Parliament.

SIR,

O tell you that I am no Statesman,
or that I am but ill Vers'd in Politicks, that I do not Pretend to
a greater Share of Sence and Understanding

ing than the rest of Mankind, or that my Observations are exactly Nice, will be no News to you to whom I have the Honour to be so well known: It is the good Esteem I bear toward my Native Country, and the utter Detestation I have of that Viper-brood who are destroying her Vitals, and seek to Insect and Pollute her sound Constitution, which gives Occasion to these few Lines.

It must indeed exceedingly Grieve a Man of Sincerity, to see a Number of base and inferior Scoundrels, Jesutes, Priests, and all the rest of that Factious and Seditious Part of the Creation, lowing the Seeds of Discord, Distrust, Assimosity and Jealousie in a Government of the best Order, the best Constitution, raising the Heat of Contention, and inflaming the Spirits of fober and well-meaning Men, by scandalous Papers, Pamphlets, and malicious Reflections, Thanks to the Freedom of the Press; Insulting the Power of Prince and People, Advancing new Models of Government, Misrepresenting as they Please, and whom they Please, Imposing upon the

[3]

the Credulity of good Humor'd Men, who are apt to Believe what falls from a plaulible and voluble Tongue under a Face Cast into a very serious Form.

These are those bold and impudent Wretches who Dare Traduce the Proceedings of that Honourable House, a Member whereof the Unanimous Voice of your Countrymen has Thought sit to Appoint you; 'tis the due Reward of your known Integrity and clear Reputation; These are the very Men who Divide the Nation into disferent Classes, and are pleased to Distinguish them by such Denomination as may Raise Distrust and Suspicion in the whole Body; One Part then must be Jacobites, Receivers of French Money, and so but ill affected to the present Government.

How ridiculous, filly and weak these Aspersions really are, will plainly appear to Men of Observation and cool Reasoning; the Adherents of that weak and unpolitick Prince, who so neatly Tricked himself out of Three Kingdoms, are at a very low Ebb; many of those Men B 2 who

who some Time ago were very Zealous in that Cause are greatly faln off, and their Numbers brought very low, I speak of the Protestant Party, even so much that Men of the best Condition, who pay double Taxes, have been of late Years very constant at the Prayers, and other Religious Duties, in their respective Parish Churches. A fure fign, I think, that they are no way out of Humor with the prefent Government, but rather upon some Punctilio of Honour they know not how to Acquit themselves handsomly from some Engagements which they had too hastily resolv'd upon; just Reason indeed they had to be ashamed of their Company; and to draw off from the Society of fuch ill-minded Men was highly commendable; for it must have been in Concert with the Romish Party in England to Attempt the shifting of the Scene; a happy Chance indeed to those restless Men that no fuch Attempt was made, for the Event thereof I make no manner of doubt would have been very Fatal, even to the utter Extirpation of Popery Root and Branch out of these Protestant Kingdoms; the Cause [5]

Cause thus decaying even some Time fince, the top Men of that Interest slipp'd out of the Croud, and not caring any more to Meddle in those dangerous Matters, perfwades me with great Assurance to Affirm, that since the Death of that misled and unhappy Prince, the very basest Part and Dregs of the Common People, who ever hate the very Name of Popery, would look upon it as an unparconable Affront to be call'd Jacobites at this Time of the Day; can any Man then be so voidof his Sences as to imagine that Men of the greatest Reason as well as Figure, Men of Judgment and great Experience, Men whose Native Principles as well as: Estates are concern'd in the Matter, who have taken the Oaths of Fidelity to our prefent King, and formerly would have given even half their Estates to see the-Days which they now fee; should Carefs the Professed Enemies of their Country, or Court the Favour of a Bankrupt Monarch; away then with that pernicious and mifchievous Cant, Vendidit Auro Patriam; the Publisher must be some fiery Zealot, who knows nothing of the Matter, but trufts

to Noise and common Report; and some fecret Incendiary most certain is the Man who Whispers it about, that Men of known Generolity and greatest Affluence thould do the basest Offices to get more Money, or Cringe, Fawn, and make their Honours for a little Foreign Gold; the Clamor you know, Sir, runs most upon Generals, tho' at some Times betwixt the Nose and Tongue they will Adventure to Snuffle out Particulars; and by breaking the Name into Letters and Syllables, they will show you the way of obscuring the Reputation of any Man whatever for whom you have Refentments or private Pique.

Would but these sly and cunning Artists once show themselves Men, would they speak out, and make it plainly appear who are those Mercenary Villains who have taken Wages to Betray their own Country, 'tis what they themselves know, that they shall not only meet with the greatest Encouragement, as well as Reward from the present Government, but even thereby settle a lasting Honour upon

upon themselves and their Posterity; let the Conveyance be as Nice as may be, yet the Bribe must go from Hand to Hand before it come to the Person or Persons who are to Influence the Government; fothat by this means there being many Witnesses, it would be less difficult to Sum up the Evidence, when the Concurrent Testimonies of such a Number must needs make fuch clear Discovery: But if it be yet more Legerdemain than all this, the Banker e're this should have shut up his Cash, and stopp'd that vast Profusion of Louis De Or's which is faid lately to have been among us, called the Undertakers to a fevere Account, and have expos'd them as a Number of Perfidious Wretches, who have taken fuch large Sums of Money, and done nothing worth a Three-penny Peice: I can by no means Beat it into my Noddle, that any Gentleman of England can be guilty of so base a Treachery, I say of England, because by the by you will meet with a Difinction, as either directly or indirectly the Betraying his Country; I will give you an Instance, Sir, to confirm my Opinion, which to me feems very prevailing; you well.

well Remember the Days, they were dark and cloudy, those Days when we durst not call what we posses's dour Own, when all our English Liberties lay gasping, when Vastation and Ruin made nigh Approaches, and when we feem'd even Devoted to the Sword, our bosom Friends, our near Relations and our dearest Offspring falling into the Hands of most cruel and bloody-minded Men: And had not a Deliverance plainly Miraculous timely interposed, Reform'd Religion, in all humane Appearance, must for ever have been Banished out of this now happy Isle; a Deliverance never to be Forgot; yet even then, by all the Arts, Periwasives, and Menaces that a Bigotted Prince could Think most proper and convenient, Men of the best Condition and Quality, nay, some of them Men of undue Liberties, and very Vicious Morals, could not be induced to give up the Rights and Priviledges of the Protestant Cause, or surrender up the poor Distracted Nation to the Power of a Foreign Prince, that is, into the Hands of the late King James, who by his Principles was altogether such; Men of so great Honour and

[9]

and true Resolution, ought ever to have the highest Esteem in the Memory of the more serious part of Mankind; and tho' we silently grieve at their personal Faults, because we could even with them the brightest Crowns in the Regions above, yet we must rejoice if they meet with the greatest Rewards that this World can give, and hope that their Names may live in perpetual Annals.

But now, Sir, to take off the Blemish and Stain which has been cast upon the Innocent, I will point you out the Men who have been the great Managers of the Cause; who have all along had the Fingering of the Pence, and hope for fresh Recruits when the Flotilla arrives: They are a Race of Men, who like the Canaanites of old, willever be Thorns in our Eyes, and Goads in our Sides, until they have fill'd up the Measure of their Iniquities, and fo like them be expell'd the Land; Men who Live, grow Fat, and Propagate their Kind here in England, yet by no Means to be called Men of England, who at their first coming into the

the World seem to be Natives, yet they are Born Subjects of Italy, France, or Spain, and are really to all Intents and Pur-poses as very Foreigners as they that live there upon the very Spot; who carry on the same Interests, bear the same inveterate Hate to the whole Race of Protestants, the same Thirst for humane Blood, the same Brutal and Dragooning Principles; who live here to make Sport for their Fellow-Citizens on the other Shore; they even Dress us as they please, and then make us out of Humour with one the other's Habit, and so set us to picking of holes in each the other's Doublet, teach us the Art of Ridiculing by scurrilous Names, and distinguishing Modes of Speech, and then the Laugh goes loud upon the Banks of Tiber; and tho' I believe it will never now be in their Power to carry any thing here beyond a Tongue Combat, anda slight Skirmish of Words, yet they have an After-Game to Play: A Neighbouring Prince, with whom they are in Fee, must be managed to good Advantage, finding that by all their Art and Skill they never shall be able to give up this this Nation to his Arms and Power, which with all their Souls they would be glad to do. They Sooth him with foftWords, Carefs him with mighty Hopes, Flatter him with numerous Titles, and exceeding great, Refresh his Spirits with Ten Thousand Golden Dreams, Keephim warm with mighty Expectations, and Feed his swelling Thoughts with Lies, Forgeries and Cant. If here Disputes arise, and some Vehemency and Smartness of Speech be used in Things of the smallest Moment, which Relate to Government; why then Difpatches fly apace, the Story is neatly told, Things come to a fine Head, and ripen to a Wonder; and if no unlucky Accident prevent, Nimrod's Sword will certainly be Invited over; the Grand Monarch at this even through his Wrinkles looks gay and iprightly; he bids his Courtiers retire, and leave the presence to him and young Master; his Imagination rouls from East to West, and all Europe is fcarce a fit Boundary; and now he's Universal Monarch, and 'tis now he gives Principalities, Governments, and Places of Trust, to those who stand fairest in Esteem; and

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as for you, my little Prince, giving him a gentle Pat upon the Shoulder, 'tis my Sovereign Power Creates you so; Enjoy the Ancient Priviledges, Honours and Dignities of your Princely Ancestors; I mean those of your Father J. and your Uncle C. for by these Presents I do Make, Constitute and Appoint you Prince, ap Shinking, ap Shone, ap Ruddock, &c. Viceroy of England, Scotland, and Ireland; take Heart, my little Prince; for tho' those stubborn Hereticks seem to flout your Highness, and call you a Pretended Prince, I tell you on my Word, and my Word is as Sacred as ever your Father's mas, 'tis I'll Correct their insolence, or lose my Croma; Poor Prince, call in his Physicians, draw the Curtains close, give him an Opiate, let him be Cupp'd, or Breathe a Vein, and the Raving will go off; but to Proceed.

These known Incendiaries have yet more to say; and because they are Consciencious Rogues, and hate to take Money for nothing, they will have among us; and if they set us a snapping at one another, to keep up a little Mirth, twill be shift good enough; for 'tis in their Patent, when Optortunity to do a great deal of Muscheif is not convenient.

convenient, that they always be sure to do a little; and therefore they get it into common Story, that Matters are not right, and Things can never go well, when fo many Court Favourites are distinguish'd from those of equal Quality, by Honorary Titles, and Places of the highest Trust; let it then be Criminal in any Man who is but Master of a private Family, who after long Trial, and repeated Instances of great Fidelity, exceeding Diligence and Care, shall give fonie notable Rewards to one Servant, or more; instead of Resentment, this stirs the slack, and quickens the Pace of him who has hitherto been fluggish, and as yet has but made small Advances towards his Mafter's Favour; if then a Subject by his good Services feeks to oblige the Favour of his Prince, and meets with Advancement, and Publick. Tokens of Royal Esteem, shall we not say 'tis Brave, and Worthy a Prince? There was a Time, and 'tis within the Memory of Man, when those who had hazarded their Lives, their Treasure and Blood in Service of the King and Country/

Country too, met with base Usage, Distain, and black Ingratitude; a hard and foul Return; this draws a Veil over the brightest Actions of that Prince, and gives his Name so rough, so unpleasant a Sound to that part of Mankind, who are concern'd when Ment falls short of due Reward; nay, 'tis the Fault of the good-hearted Englishman to Covet an Excess this way; and we are out of Humor that all Men of Worth are not crowded into Business and Place, even all at once, before there's Room or Vacancy.

Now, Sir, pray give me Leave to turn to another Gnevance, as the Disturbers of our Peace are pleas'd to give it out, to those whom they are pleas'd to call the Moderate Men; Men, as they tell you, full of Jealousies and Fears, who Dream of Traps and Gins; and if an Expedient to bring Matters to an Issue be propos'd, they start, touch very gently, and are much afraid that there is some Trick in't; Men, whose Principles are less steady, who sometimes think that

that this is best, and then again are very angry with themselves for thinking so; sometimes are mighty hot for Kingly Government, but then again a Commonwealth's much best; fuch as these 'tis like are to be met with; nay, I'll grant they are very numerous, but not to be found, unless among the Populace, where Indian Weed of the worst scent Fumes the dirty Cell, and heavy drousie Heads Spout Politicks; for in a Commonwealth, fay they, there be a many Kings, and Ralph the Fell-monger may put in to be a King, and so may Hugh the Com-keeper of Islington; Men of sound Reason may indeed debate, may be refolv'd, and after change their Thoughts, being mov'd by Arguments compos'd by Artful Skill, and made on purpose to raise the Passions, and to put the Spirits in a Tumult; 'tis then the best of Men are often seen in a very unbecoming Rage, rushing along with Words too hasty, and ill chose; presuming to talk Off-hand, let fall what seems indecent, and much distant from the common Rules of true Breeding and good Manners: When this is done Sir, let

let this Man of high Choler have but a short Time to Cool; let him retire from Company, and calmly reflect on what is past; you'll see him revenge it on himself, as the most vile, the most abject of his Race; 'tis then he is for ever yours, and fo fincerely; he's then a Friend Faithful and Trusty, and will serve you more, and to much better Purpose, than those whom you have ever been secure of; but to re-assume, That the Advancing of a Commonwealth should enter the Thoughts of him whose Education sets him far above the Common Rate, is inconceivable; no, the dear-bought Experience of the Days of Old has well secur'd that Point, when Anarchy and Confusion overspread the Land; when Hums and Haws were fine Touches, and exceeding Rhetorick; when the infulting Plebeian took the Chair, gave Laws, demanded and forc'd Obedience from those whose Birth and Descent one would have thought should have well secur'd from rude Hands and Insolence; our Men of Fashion and Nobility, some of them at least, do bear in Mind the comfortable Times they

•[17]

they then liv'd in amidst the Blessed Smells of fragrant Garlick, and choice Onions, when Surrounded with a Troop of Elders, and the Lay-Brotherhood. No, it has been Tried, but 'twill not do; and to Change the Government here in England, even if Opportunity seem'd much Inviting, for that of a Commonwealth, is what can never more be Once Attempted: But here to take the Characters of Men, where the Avowed Enemies of our Country are most numerous, is weak and unfair; for here about the Town 'tis they are in large Bodies; and here it is they throw up the Seed-Plot of all their Conspiracies; and here, through Inadvertency, we push it on just as they are pleas'd to Level our Artillery; no, the true Characters of Menare to be taken from the Place of their constant Abode, where they and their Ancestors, time out of mind, have been well regarded and exactly known, and there, upon just Enquiry, you will find that these Men of Moderation have no real Difference from those whom they are pleased to call the High-Church. They are

are for Monarchy, for the Succession in the Protestant Line, for the same Doctrine and Discipline in Church-government, pray as fincerely for the King as the others. do, have the same Notions of true Honour, have the same Bowels, Care and Tenderness for the Country where they Live. If different Modes of Education, even in the same Principles, perswade Men to this or that Method, whereby they hope to gain upon the World, and make the Understanding and Sence of Things more Uniform, is it Blame-worthy? As for Instance, suppose one Party seems rough and severe, keeps the Dissenter great distance, cares not to Trade, or have any Conversation with him, hates his ill-grounded Scruples as Nice, Unreafenable, and Ridiculous, and whilst he continues such, believes Discouragement, finart Words, and just Reproof, to be the proper Method to Convince a Stubborn Humor, which to them seems to be such, and by that Means hopes to bring him to the Communion of that Church which is by Law Established; suppose then again, that the other Party has another Notion of the Matter, is of Opinion that a gentler Way is much much more proper, that Affability, kind Usage, tender and perswasive Arguments, kind Offices, and free Conversation, may win the Man, and bring him over to the same Church as by Law Established; shall we say that there is any real Difference in the Principles of these Men, when they plainly Endeavour the very fame thing? Or is it worth the Coining Names of Distinction upon such a Nicety? Sir, we are exceedingly in the wrong; we Abuse our selves with Words; we like their found; and as they strike upon the Ear, and hit our Phancy, we make them sharp and pointed, smooth and inoffenfive, fignificant, or of no moment, just according to the manner we are pleas'd to give them utterance; our Politicks run much what at the same Rate; we have Wise, Discerning and Judicious Men, who thus Qualifi'd, are by the Voice of their respective Countries where they are best known, thought fit to compose the Great Council of the Kingdom; all these Esteem the King with the same Affection and Sincerity, would all Sacrifice their Fortunes, Treasures, Estates, Lives and Hearts-Blood, for the Honour, Safety and Preservation

of that Dear Life, which to the English Nation is of such high Concern, with equal Resolution to the last Mite, to the last Drop; yet the different Ways, the different Thoughts, the different Methods proposed how to secure the Honour of the King and Country, divide the House; and then it is each Party studies the Point, Debate, Resolve and Labour to make their Councils fuch as may prevail and influence the King; 'tis a Noble Contest, and the True Effect of entire Love and fincere Affection in both Parties, while they each strive who shall make him most theirs: And to put this quite out of dispute, 'tis but observing, that even in their greatest Heats and smartest Debates, if any thing's proposed, which at the first View is for the Honour of the King, they are then all of a piece Stedfast, Resolv'd and Unanimous, as appears by this brave Refolution, which ought to be writ in Characters of Gold: That an humble Address be presented His Majesty, giving His Majesty the humble Thanks of this House for His most Gracious Speech from the Throne, and the Satisfaction

Satisfaction He has been pleased to express of the Proceedings of this House; and to assure Him, that upon all Occasions this House will be ready to Assist His Majesty in Supporting of those Alliances His Majesty shall think sit to make, in Conjunction with the Emperor and the States General, for the Preservation of the Liberties of Europe, the Prosperity and Peace of England, and for the reducing the Exorbitant Power of France.

Let then our Countries Enemies lead on their poor, forry Triumph; let them show us abroad Contentious, Inactive, and Supine, Ungrateful, Treacherous, Mercenary, Uncertain, or what they please; give us Dark Names, and print Black Catalogues, it matters not; let them gild the Bolus, make it rich, and highly Aromatique, fit for the Swallow of that Great Prince, whose Subjects they are; and with mighty Care dispatch it over by the faithful Owlers who Hover. near Dover-Cliffs; there 'twill do well, for there's great need of Cordials; 'tis here we know their Arts, their secret Cunning, and their crafty Policy, their Brima. Brimstone Smell, and their Ambiguous Speech makes a Discovery; and 'twill now require more than their common Skill to Palm their Trumpery and Tinsel-Ware upon us here, who upon every Opportunity which offers fair, expect some pretty Trick, some slight of Hand: As we are Men, subject we must be to Passions and Humane Infirmities; close Argument and warm Dispute often strike out some fiery Particles, and then both Parties, like two Neighbouring Clouds, flash out their Lightning till all their Heat is spent, and then they gently join and slip into one; the good King, Wife and Prudent, Cool and Sedate, who thinks, and weighs, and fees with nicest Skill, admires the Bravery of his best Friends, and in this mighty struggle views all their Hearts clean, sincere, and entirely his own, which is evident by His Majesties most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament at the conclusion of the last Session; this he has full assurance of, and only waits till kind Heaven shall make it plain and visible to the World abroad; he stays not long; and

and it was his own ill State of Health which began the thing, his Toyls, his great Fatigues, his Watchings, and his con-Stant Cares for our Security, had brought a great Indisposition of Body upon his-Majesty: The News flies to the French Court, for the French King has constant Advice from his Friends here; and whom they are you are not now to guefs; and 'tis now he's told that fuch dangerous Symptoms did appear, that England much fear'd a Loss, that the Life of their King was in great hazard, and now's the time to show himself a true Son of Mother Church: The Ambitious and Perfidious Prince o'rejoy'd at this, according to Cuttom breaks through all Engagements, Treaties, Promises, and all other Ties of Honour, thinks fit to difpose of Great Britain and Ireland, appoints us a Governour as Lawful and Rightful as the King of Bantam, Duke of Golconda; or Prince Lubomerski: The Subjects of England justly incensed at this, highly reient the Matter, loudly call on the King to Revenge that bold Affront done to his Crown and Dignity, even in the fight

fight of all Europe; they press hard upon him, and even offer violence to his Will, beg him to put it in their Power to elect the Great Council of the Nation anew; not so much regarding whether or no they chose the old ones anew, or what others to them might seem of stedfast Courage, stedfast Resolution; as that the World might see, for all their Eyes are turned this may, and take special notice with what particular Concern they study the Honour of the King: He ever Kind, and ever Condescending, gives his good Subjects the freedom of their Choice; all Parts are busied in fixing upon Men of known Merit, known Integrity; and a happy Choice is made, which at this time feemed less difficult; for at this Jun-Aure, and upon this new Face of things, I should think it was scarce possible to chuse amis; for 'tis now we are warm, and all our Spirits rife against that Insolent Invader of our King's Honour, and his Justest Rights; 'tis now that a long Train of Thoughts come in; and now we look back with the best Acknowledgments,

ments with the greatest Sence of Gratitude, upon those glorious Deeds, many in Number, and of the greatest Weight, which the Great Preserver of our Country and her due Liberties with so much Zeal, with so Vigilance has Wrought; we are amazed, and at a loss, to find what Occasion we have given the rude Disturber of the World, or by what or whence has he been Encouraged to suppose us to be so mean, so vile, so effeminate, to contemptible a People, as not with the highest Rage and Scorn to Resent that base and bold Affront he has taken the liberty to put upon him, whom in the Face of all the World we dare Affirm to be one of the best of Kings now living; a King who has Sacrificed his Rest, his Ease, his Health, the Vigor and Strength of Body and of Mind, all the Softness and Pleasures which frequently Ensnare most Crowned Heads, to the Honour, Prosperity, and Safety of his People; good Heaven, what is't we cannot do for fuch a Prince? Or how could we bear the loss of so Brave a Man? Let us set a just Value upon his Sacred Person, and refresh his Thoughts, which are too solicitous for us, with every thing that's Kind, Loyal and Dutiful, whilft we enjoy him here; for if Heaven should owe us Shame and Confusion, and so snatch him hence; with what Sorrow should we Trace the large Volumes of his Life? Every Page would moisten our Eyes, and at many a Period we should drop a Tear, and ligh out the rest, and lay, never was to good a King; now's the time his Grand Council met, if Men of Sense, who take right Aim, say true, to make his Britannick Majesty Great and Auful over all the World; and 'tis in their Power so to do; and very confident I am, if 'twas in their Power to make the King Immertal, and to Reign over us so long as the World shall last, 'tis what they would do, if those Snakes in the Grass, whom I have told you of before, would cease their Hissing, and forbear throwing out their Poylonous Infection, in order to stop Proceedings, and to make Rulinels of Moment go flowly on: Sir, tis now in the Power of that Honourable House, whereof you are a Worthy Member, to Confirm and Establish that mighty Monoia and Esteem most of the Christian Princes

Princes and Potentates of Europe bear toward his present Majesty; and 'tis one smart Vote from them strikes that Blustering Heroe, the French King, with greater dread than all the German Legions; tho' 'tis believ'd, that even they long before this have brought upon him the Palpitation of the Heart; so that if Matters answer all our Hopes, and succeed well here, we may expect in due time to have it in the News, that his Soul has given him the slip, and stoln out of the Back-door; and what a horrid Stench will that Pussant Monarch leave behind him?

FINIS.

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